

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*Pre General  
of B*

Applicants: De Francesco et al.

Serial No.: 08/952,981 Case No.: IT0002PCA

Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

For: METHOD FOR REPRODUCING IN  
VITRO THE RNA-DEPENDENT RNA  
POLYMERASE AND TERMINAL  
NUCLEOTIDYL TRANSFERASE  
ACTIVITIES ENCODED BY  
HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)

## EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DATE OF DEPOSIT Feb 27 2002  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL52391158745

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO  
ADDRESSEE" BEFORE 5 P.M. ON THE ABOVE DATE IN  
AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

MAILED BY Christina Cuffe  
DATE 2-27-02PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the enclosed application as provided below.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first sentence:

-- The present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/952,981, filed  
March 23, 1998, which is the U.S. national filing of PCT/IT96/00106, International filing date  
May 24, 1996 (published in English).--

Please amend the specification by replacing the Sequence Listing with the enclosed  
Sequence Listing.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-7 without prejudice to future prosecution. Please add the  
following claims: